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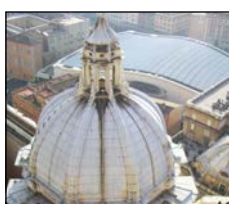
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Sports, pg 10

Global traveler

XU alum and women's basketball star April Phillips shares her experiences in Israel.



Feature, pg 12

Venni, Vichi, I took pictures

Doug Tifft gives a first-hand account of Roman study abroad. And only offhandedly raves about food.

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Students struggle with eBill system

BY LIZZIE GLASER
Campus News Editor

At the start of their spring 2011 semester, 1,446 Xavier students received an e-mail from the Bursar's Office stating that their classes were at risk of being canceled due to non-payment.

Students who received the e-mail either owed a balance for the 2010 fall semester of more than \$1,000, or had made no payments on their chosen payment plan for the 2011 spring semester.

Since its conversion to the electronic bill, eBill, in August 2010, the Bursar's Office has been fighting student ignorance of the new system.

The eBill requires a more active role from students who are accustomed to paper bills or who are not the primary managers of their bursar accounts. Each student must select a payment plan before the beginning of each semester.

There are two payment plan options: payment in full, in which the full balance of tuition is paid the month before classes begin, or the five-payment plan, in which the balance is divided equally into five increments and paid over the course of five months, beginning the month before classes begin.



News wire photo by Alexa Von Bargaen

The eBill system allows students to easily pay their tuition online in an effort to reduce long lines at the Bursar's office at the start of semesters.

For instance, if a student selects the five-payment plan for the spring semester, his or her bills will come monthly, beginning in December and ending in April.

Tuition is due on the 20th of each month.

If a student fails to select a payment plan, his or her tuition is due in full on the 20th of the month before the term begins.

Any payments made toward tuition without a selected plan will simply reduce the balance.

That is, if a student pays \$300 on his December bill but has not

selected a payment plan, the student still owes the University for the remainder of his or her tuition by Dec. 20.

If he fails to pay in full because the student thought he was paying monthly, the bill is considered overdue and the student is at risk of having his classes canceled.

Such was the case for the majority of students who received the Bursar's e-mail last week.

In this case, students can fix the problem by logging into the Portal, clicking on the Student Services tab along the top, finding

the channel called My Academic Records and clicking on the link called My Bursar Account.

There, students can make payments or select a payment plan.

The best time to do this is in June for the fall semester, as bills go out in July, or in November for the spring semester, as bills go out in December. Summer semester students should enroll in a payment plan near the end of April.

Xavier converted to the eBill to increase customer service, to become more efficient and to cut costs while also contributing to

the University-wide sustainability effort by reducing paper wastes.

"Prior to the eBills, we produced and mailed the paper bills from the Bursar's Office. We sent approximately 6,000 bills each month," Henry Saas of the Bursar's Office said.

Despite a few minor hiccups with the system, eBills are working well for the University.

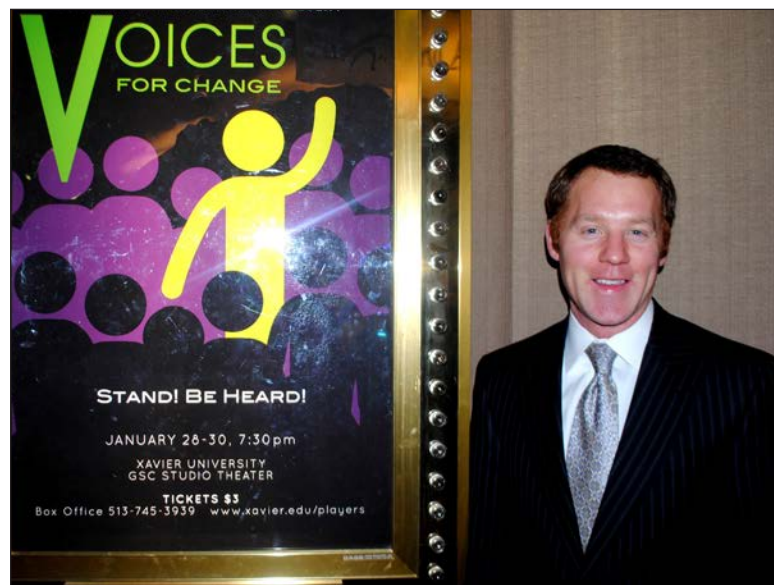
"Xavier University Bursar's Office is constantly working to improve customer service, inform students of payment plans and alternatives and offer guidance in finding the best plan to fit each student. The ePayment system is part of this on-going improvement," Saas said. "The Bursar's Office is open to suggestions on how to better communicate with students, cut down on those long lines during the first weeks of school and help students with the financial side of their education."

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Players shake-up



News wire photo by Alexa Von Bargaen

Joe Christman will add director of performing art to his current titles.

BY SARAH WIETEN
Managing Editor

After the unexpected retirement of Cathy Springfield, director of performing arts, over the holiday break, Director of Gallagher Student Center(GSC) and Summer Conference Program, Joe Christman will fill her position on an interim basis, adding to his growing string of titles.

Springfield held this position

since 1988.

Christman could not speak on Springfield's reasoning for her sudden retirement, but did note his surprise. "I didn't know anything about this being planned beforehand," he said.

Christman will not be the only one taking on new duties however. Dave Zlatich, technical theater director of the performing arts department, will be helping with

Continued on page 2

Chadwick begins provost interviews

BY DOUG TIFFT
Editor-in-Chief

A handful of students, administrators and professors lined the first few rows of Kennedy Hall in Conaton Learning Commons on Tuesday evening to hear Dr. Scott Chadwick make his pitch to become Xavier's academic vice president and the second provost in school history.

Chadwick, the current vice president for academic affairs at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., is one of five semi-finalists visiting campus in the next two weeks to interview for the provost and academic vice president position to be vacated in May by Dr. Roger Fortin.

In a 45-minute session that included a question-and-answer from the crowd, Chadwick outlined the manner in which he would approach the position if chosen.

"The provost needs to think of both academic and student life, because students learn both inside and outside the classroom," Chadwick said. "And being able to serve as provost and academic vice president would allow me to not just have some input in conversa-



News wire photo by Andrew Matsushita

Dr. Scott Chadwick, one of five semi-finalists for the provost position, made his pitch for the job in front of students, administrators and faculty on Tuesday.

tions from one of those positions, but be able to enact things more effectively in a swifter manner."

Chadwick's visit comes seven months after the provost search committee first began looking for a replacement for Fortin, who became academic vice president in 2001 and Xavier's first provost and academic vice president full-time in 2004 after 38 years as a professor in the history department—where he will return full

time this fall.

Fortin notified the University in June of his desire to step down from his post as provost and academic vice president, prompting Xavier President Fr. Michael Graham, S.J., to set up a search committee headed by Beth Amyot, vice president for financial administration, and Dr. Steven Herbert of the physics department.

The committee received 52 ap-

Continued on page 2



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

Flix has been asked to move out of its current position in GSC and is struggling to find a new location.

Students find CSC; graduates find jobs

BY MOLLY BOES
Assist. News Editor

Students graduating from Xavier this year, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), can anticipate a higher rate of employment.

Since the 2007-08 school year, the Career Services Center has seen a 125 percent increase – 25 percent of which can be attributed to last year alone – in the number of students and alumni who use its services.

Rick Browne, director of Career Services, attributes this increase to students becoming more aware of the services available not only through advertisements, but also through encouragement from faculty members.

The CSC has begun reaching

out to faculty, encouraging them to talk to students about the services offered.

Browne also attributes this increase to the expanding class sizes at Xavier, along with a general increase in the number of alumni seeking help from the center.

Career Services has also seen a large amount of recruitment of Xavier students.

Recruiting occurs when local businesses come on campus and interview students for possible job opportunities.

In the last year, Xavier has experienced a 10-15 percent increase in on-campus interviews conducted by various local companies.

According to Browne, this rise in recruitment could be credited to the improving economy.

The CSC is also hoping to employ another staff member

in order to provide more support, as well as to efficiently use its resources in its new location at Conaton Learning Commons, room 530.

The center offers career counseling, career testing and walk-in appointments for all students not in the Williams College of Business, as well as on-campus recruiting and career fairs for all Xavier students.

They also host several career-related programs each month such as résumé workshops and mock interviews, which are open to all Xavier students.

Students looking to use these services can make an appointment to talk to an adviser or set up a meeting to discuss careers, or, for a brief meeting, can partake in the walk-in hours found on their website at www.xavier.edu/career.

Players shake-up

Continued from page 1

show production and creative decision making, as well as hiring other professionals, like lighting designers and choreographers as each show requires.

Tracy Macmorine, assistant director of GSC, will advise Xavier Players and work with the organization’s performing arts grant scholarship winners.

Macmorine will also be shifting to a more general role in the GSC, working with both the performing arts department and assisting with summer conferences duties.

Dustin Lewis, assistant director of student involvement, will take over duties advising Singers and Gospel Choir.

This transition period should last from six months to a year before

fore a more permanent arrangement is reached by the Division of Student Life and Leadership.

Christman plans to continue the status quo as far as theater productions go over the next year.

“We will focus on the already published production schedules and use the same procedures for show selection,” Christman said. Christman could not say if the departure of Springfield would produce an opportunity to restructure the theater department at Xavier as either a club or a department.

“That is certainly one of the options going forward, but that will ultimately be on the table for [Dean of Students and Senior Student Affairs Advocate] Luther Smith and [Associate Provost for the Division of Student Life and Leadership] Kathleen Simons to

decide. And there are many options on that table,” Christman said.

Currently theatre productions come from a mix of efforts from Players, a student club and the performing arts department.

In addition to the unexpected role as director of performing arts, Christman also took on work regarding summer conferences beginning Dec. 1.

This role involves finding uses, like youth leadership camps, sports camps and business retreats, for the universities’ spaces, like the theatre and the residence halls, while students are gone over the summer.

Christman says he is not yet overwhelmed by all of these duties, which come in addition to significant physical changes in the GSC.

“I am in a pretty good spot — things just run so smoothly in the GSC,” Christman said. “I am really looking forward to working with Dave and Tracy and other members of Players in the future.”

“I am really looking forward to working with Dave and Tracy and other members of Players in the future.”

– Joe Christman, Director of Gallagher Student Center

Chadwick begins provost interviews

Continued from page 1

plications and narrowed the list to 10 based on a review of each candidate’s curriculum vitae, or academic resume. After asking the 10 quarterfinalists a series of questions related to Xavier’s Jesuit identity, online learning, mission and diversity and the student life experience, the provost search committee released a list of five semi-finalists on Jan. 14.

Beginning with Chadwick’s visit on Tuesday, the five semi-finalists will each individually tour campus, meeting administrators, students and professors—all of whom have been encouraged by

the provost search committee to provide feedback.

“We want the students and people around Xavier to come out and ask questions,” Herbert said. “This person will have a big impact on the University, so we want it to be a decision that everyone has some input on.”

The next visit will be Dr. Christopher Duncan of Duquesne University on Thursday, Jan. 20, followed by Dr. William Madges of Saint Joseph’s University on Monday, Jan. 24, Dr. Michael Dantley of Miami University on Wednesday, Jan. 26 and Dr. Dennis Jacobs of Notre Dame University on Monday, Jan. 31.

While four of the five candi-

dates are from private schools of similar profile to Xavier, Herbert said the search committee did not specifically target such candidates.

“We did not plan it that way—it was sort of happenstance,” Herbert said. “We had a number of qualified candidates based on the job description that we put out. We were looking for a forward-thinking candidate who would add something to the University and its Jesuit character.”

The search committee will review any external and internal input after the visits, then give Graham a recommendation of two finalists to return for interviews with Graham and the board of directors in February.



photos courtesy of Andrew Matsushita

On Tuesday, the Office of Interfaith Community Engagement hosted an event to allow Xavier students to write hateful expressions that have been said to them on a wall. Afterwards, students and Rabbi Ingber broke apart and burned the wall outside of Gallagher and then broke Challah bread as a sign of unity.

D4D runs to grant Disney World wish

BY KEVIN TIGHE
Staff Writer

After months of training and fundraising, Xavier’s Distance 4 Dreams club ran series of races over winter break in Orlando, Fla., allowing a young woman’s dream to come true.

Having raised approximately \$7,000, the club was able to use the donations to send Charday Davis, a 20-year-old woman suffering from sickle cell anemia, and her family to Disney World along with the twenty members of the club.

Davis had never had the opportunity to go to Disney World, and so the club strove to make her dream come true.

Distance 4 Dreams worked in conjunction with A Special Wish Foundation to make the trip and race possible.

A Special Wish Foundation is a nonprofit organization that grants wishes to children and young adults under the age of 21 who are diagnosed with a life-threatening disorder.

According to A Special Wish Foundation’s website, wishes are presented in three different categories: special gifts, special places and special heroes. Davis had her wish answered in the form of a special place.

Races began on Saturday, Jan. 8,



photo courtesy of Nick Rivera

Distance for Dreams traveled to Disney World over winter break to run a half marathon and a full marathon. The students got sponsors for the races in order to collect enough money with A Special Wish Foundation to fulfill the dream of Charday Davis .

with the 13.1 mile half marathon.

“The goal is to provide a child and their family an all-expenses-paid trip to Disney World,” club president junior Nick Rivera said. “On Saturday we got to meet Charday and her family and hear about their trip.”

Saturday’s half marathon was

run by fifteen of the Distance 4 Dreams club members, while two others ran the full marathon on Sunday.

The remaining three — juniors Rivera, Kevin Murray and Casey Wilson — ran both the half and the full marathons, sweating for a total of 39.3 miles, accomplishing

the “Goofy Challenge.”

The donations for the event were made through a pledge-per-mile or a flat, finish-the-race pledge.

“The more miles I ran, the more money that went to Charday,” Rivera said.

Inspired by the Dayton branch

of Distance 4 Dreams, Xavier established its own club of Distance 4 Dreams and became the second branch nationally.

Distance 4 Dreams hopes to become more of a presence on campus, with plans for creating a charity 5K run for the A Special Wish Foundation in the future.

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JANUARY

19: Karaoke Night - 7pm-? (Ryan's Pub @ Gallagher Student Center) Join SAC for some karaoke action with one of the hottest Karaoke DJs in Cincinnati, featuring thousands of songs. Warm up to this fun night of wintry music with your roommates and friends!

20: Late Night Snack - 10pm-11pm (Gallagher Student Center) Join SAC for the first Late Night Snack of 2011; Five Guys.

21: Swing Dance The Night Away - 6:30pm-10:30pm (Step-N-Out Studio) Join SAC and learn swing dancing OR come out and show us what you got for this fun night of Swing Dancing at Step-N-Out Studio in Covington. Beginners to Advanced swing dancers are all welcome! Xavier Students and their dance partners can catch the buses from Buenger Circle at 6:30pm. See you there!

26: The Asia Project - Slam Poetry - 6pm-7:30pm (Gallagher Student Center Theatre) Don't miss Asia performing live slam poetry and music - telling stories about his life, surviving cancer in his 20s, and the promise he made to God to never take life for granted again. Asia has been featured on Russell Simmon's HBO DEF Comedy Jam and is the winner of the 2006 College Performer of the Year Award. His performance is deeply moving, passionate and humorous - you won't want to miss this event! For more information on The Asia Project, follow this link to his website. Arrive early for the best seat in the house!



THE ASIA PROJECT



Professor Profile: Prof. Lee Widmer

By DAVID MAXWELL
Staff Writer

Lee Widmer is a professor in Xavier's physics department and teaches classes such as Our Universe: The Sky, where he navigates the complexities of the universe in his own comedic style.

The *NewsWire* recently had a chance to ask Widmer about himself and what he finds so interesting about the cosmic subjects he teaches.

Xavier NewsWire: Where are you from?

Lee Widmer: I am from Cincinnati, unfortunately.

XN: What are some of your qualifications to teach in the physics department at Xavier?

LW: I have an MS in Physics, an MS in Mathematics and an MA in Anthropology.

This means I am a failure in each discipline, but Xavier still lets me teach classes.

XN: What do you enjoy doing when you are off-campus?

LW: Since I am married with children, I am always working. I am not sure what "enjoy" means.

XN: What draws you to Xavier in particular?

LW: I have never worked at a place with kinder, more rational people, by and large, than Xavier. The students are also a lot of fun.

XN: Astronomy is a particular-



Photo courtesy of Lee Widmer

Lee Widmer is an adjunct astronomy professor known for his comedic style.

ly vast and complex subject. What do you like about teaching it?

LW: Most people don't know much about it, particularly about how weird the universe is in all its wonders. I like passing that on.

I also have this drive to proselytize about science and the science-way of looking at things, which is crucial in a democratic society like ours where science is so misunderstood.

XN: What do you most hope your students gain from your classes?

LW: I hope students are able to gain some interesting knowledge and the ability to think logically and critically.

XN: What is the most interesting thing you have learned about the universe?

LW: I believe the most interesting thing about the universe is that it is just so big and we are such a tiny part of it.

Lizzie Glaser, Campus News Editor
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Students Taking Active Roles (STAR) sees record sign ups

BY LIZZIE GLASER
Campus News Editor

Students Taking Active Roles (STAR) began the spring semester with a record number of interested people signing up. With nearly 100 sign-ups, the club hopes to gain a base of committed students as well as potentially increase its sites.

STAR functions through the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice. Its members commit to one hour of community engagement each week at different sites such as soup kitchens, nursing homes, tutoring and mentoring programs, and working with people with disabilities.

This semester, the group will focus on education about social issues and reflection on them, as opposed to just service.

“We want our members to be really engaging in the community, not just filling a need,” said club member Stephanie Howes. “We want to overcome the ‘us-versus-them’ mentality that some students come in with and really live out the Jesuit tradition, and want our members to learn to live *with* others as opposed to *for* others.”

STAR kicked off the semester on Monday, Jan. 17 by introducing groups to the sites where they will work, and began service Tuesday, Jan. 18. Sites are available for service



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

After spending a semester doing service in Ghana, Africa, STAR member Stephanie Howes realizes the importance of building relationships through service.

Monday through Friday and students can still sign up for STAR in Alter 103.

During the fall semester, STAR reevaluated its service sites, narrowing them down to 11 sites in Cincinnati. To accommodate its increasing numbers, the group may incorporate an English as a second language site this semester.

STAR hopes to inform students about service by en-

couraging them to engage and focus on what the city has to offer and what ways they can be a part of it.

“We really want to move from ‘service’ to ‘engagement’. We want people to build relationships with their sites, that’s why they go once a week,” club member Gerardo Patron-Cano said. “It’s not a one-way street. Participants not only serve, but receive.”

O’Hara to co-chair International Studies

BY LIZZIE GLASER
Campus News Editor

Dr. Julia O’Hara of the history department will join Dr. John Ray of the political science department as co-chair of the International Studies program.

O’Hara’s appointment stresses the continued partnership between the History and Political Science Departments. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the major, it is logical to have two chairs.

“It is more work than one person can do,” O’Hara said.

Students in the program concentrate on particular regions of the globe –Latin America, Africa, Asia or Europe – and study their languages, history, political structures and economies. O’Hara is the first Latin American history expert to hold the position. She will be a resource to students, as Latin America is one of the four featured focuses of the program.

Students in the program also participate in a mandatory study abroad, with a emphasis on the language of the country. Students can double major in other programs such as history, political science and a foreign language. Students also take a capstone research class and a research seminar, and they write a 25-30 page thesis paper.



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

Dr. Julia O’Hara will co-chair the International Studies Dept. with Dr. John Ray.

As co-chairs, O’Hara and Ray hope to expand the opportunities presented for International Studies students.

“We want to grow the major to include more students,” O’Hara said. “We plan to do this through increasing awareness of what is offered. We want to draw more outside speakers from other universities and help students realize the important role that study abroad can play in their undergraduate years.”

Many students who have graduated from Xavier’s International Studies program attend graduate

school to receive an MPA, a Master’s in Public Affairs. Other students attend law school, often specializing in international or environmental affairs or immigration law. Because students who graduate from the program are bilingual, they often receive jobs or internships with international companies, such as Procter & Gamble, or non-governmental organizations focused on community activism.

O’Hara is hopeful about the major’s expansion. “We are a fun major. There are lots of diverse courses and experiences.”



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NEWS

RA interviews

Residence Life will be conducting a practice interview night at the Commons Apartments on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 7 to 8 p.m. The night will allow interested RAs to gain experience from current RAs and ask any last-minute questions.

Manresa seeking new leaders

Applications for the 2011 Manresa Orientation Team are now available in the Student Involvement office or by download on XU portals. All applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31.

Career Services to host Sara Lee info session

Career Services is hosting a Sara Lee Information Session for juniors working towards a career related to sales or marketing. The session will be held this Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. in room 413 in Conaton Learning Commons

BRIEFS

“Quiet” retreat registration

With the start of a new year, a quiet retreat will occur at the Milford Retreat Center. The retreat is scheduled for the first weekend of February and the cost is \$50. Financial assistance is available. Contact Jim Riordan, S.J. for more information

Montessori Lab School accepting applicants

The Xavier University Montessori Lab School is currently accepting new student applicants for the 2011-12 year. The lab offers two multi-age classrooms with fully licensed and credentialed teachers. For more information please contact kernld@xavier.edu or call 745-3402 or 745-3424.

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EDITORIAL | Search for a new provost Seeking continuity in new provost

In recent weeks, as Roger Fortin comes down the home stretch of his term as provost and the University has begun its search for a replacement, the *Newswire* has frequently received one pressing question: What the heck is a provost?

Well, here is what Webster’s Dictionary has to say on the topic: 1. the chief dignitary of a collegiate or cathedral chapter; 2. the chief magistrate of a Scottish burgh; 3. the keeper of a prison; 4. a high-ranking university administrative officer.

In layman’s terms at Xavier, the provost is needed to oversee the three colleges — the Williams College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Social Sciences, Health, and Education — to assure that each is living up to the goals and ideals of the University.

Yet, that begs two questions: Who gets to decide what those goals and ideals are? And how does the provost go about enacting them?

For Fortin, the vision of the University seemed to result from a group discussion with Fr. Michael Graham, S.J., and other administrators — a discussion the new provost will likely be thrown directly into. The main point of contention there appeared to have been — and continues to be — about the definition of Xavier. Should Xavier, as Fortin has advocated for on many occasions, remain a small liberal arts school of 4,000 undergraduates? Or should it expand to 6,000 or more students, as some candidates are perhaps wont to do in an effort to install a grandiose and potentially transformative vision?

In our view, the first makes more sense. Why should the school attempt to expand its academic departments when it is already struggling to maintain integrity in some of the existing areas (just ask some of the communication arts students who have graduated in recent years)? We believe the student-to-faculty ratio and the intimate feel of campus are among Xavier’s greatest strengths. To us, it is more pragmatic to invest in research projects, conferences and increased academic opportunities for the smaller concentration of engaged students than to spread that money out over a larger population.

So as the University narrows its search for a new provost, we urge all parties to keep the character of the University as we know it alive — because we need someone to run this prison the right way.

EDITORIAL | E-billing fiasco

An annoyance we can forgive

In light of the recent “eBill” fiasco, which apart from creating needless anxiety for hundreds of students, served to inform at least one of us that any change had been made whatsoever, the *Newswire* would like to take this opportunity to speak on behalf of the (apparently large) portion of the student body which pays no attention to e-mails from the Bursar’s Office.

As we now know, Xavier converted to electronic billing last August, and has since struggled to make students aware of the change. Their efforts seem to have been wasted on about 1,500 students, whose failure to designate a payment plan caused them to receive emails warning that they had delinquent payments to make.

Although we dismiss the idea that the snafu might have been intentional, we are forced to question the foresight displayed in this instance, considering that the Bursar’s Office was clearly aware that students, well, were not aware. Add to that the fairly common knowledge that many, if not most, students finance their education in installments by necessity, and it is clear that an oversight was made.

Going forward, then, the most obvious change to be made to the eBill involves changing the default selection for students who do not choose a payment plan. If they wanted to get really creative, they might even be able to create a new category for those students, who could then be sent a similar e-mail warning without an astronomical bill attached.

On the Web: www.xavier.edu/newswire

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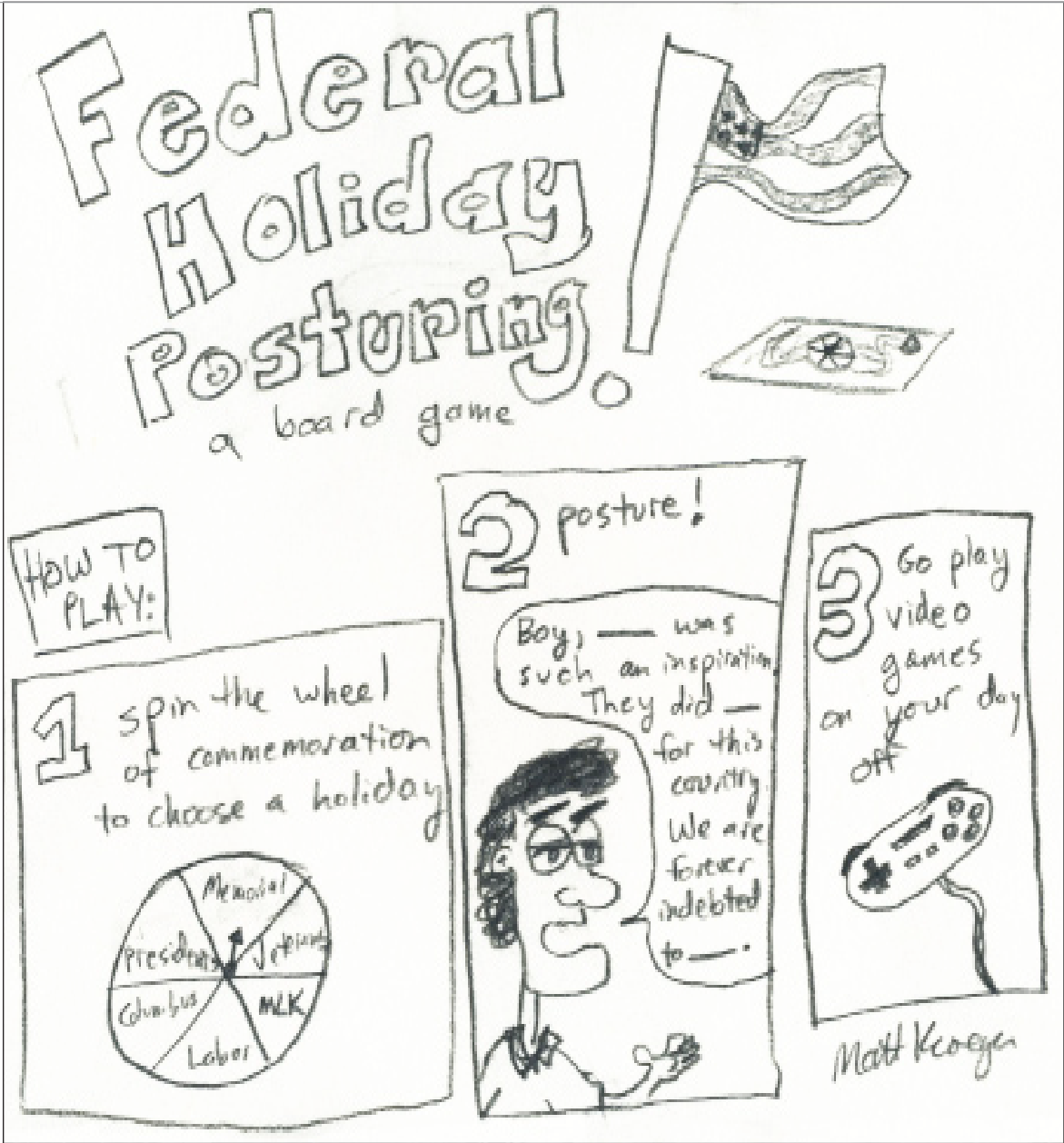
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Opinions&Editorials

XAVIER NEWSWIRE



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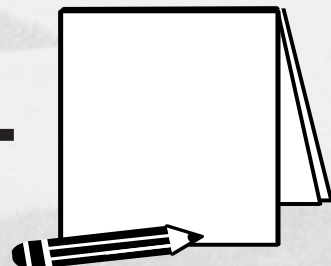
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Letters to the editor

Friendly advice from a fan

Dear Men of Harmon-X,

I appreciate that you have brought the sweet harmonies of the Beach Boys and Steam back into my everyday Xavier life, and any excuse for Sean Minion to wear Lite-Brite-reminiscent clothing is a good one. I have seen three of your shows, and let’s just say that they were inspiring enough for me and my roommates to dedicate a Saturday night to perfecting our own a cappella versions of Barbra Ann and Stokin’ (side note: Harmon-X should consider

adding this Clarence Carter classic to its repertoire).

However, some of your performances have left me with the same eerie feeling that I get after disembarking from the “It’s a Small World” ride at Disney World. This creepiness, I have deduced, can only be credited to the recurring theme of dragging a random girl on stage so that one of your resident pretty boys can serenade her and induce all-out audience hysteria.

Perhaps it is this general ‘aw-shucks-girls-be-girls-boy-be-boys-FREAK-OUT’ reaction that bothers me. Nonetheless, Harmon-X seems to be turning into a singing, swaying, awkwardly snapping in-

carnation of patriarchy with the intent of reinforcing heteronormative gender roles on campus. I understand that many of the toe-tapping’ melodies performed naturally lend themselves to such frivolity, but I cannot help being a bit put off by your insistence upon smothering the audience with boyish charm.

Xavier is definitely excited to have an a cappella group, and every member of the group appears to be talented. Therefore, I — and perhaps others — would love to see what atypical innovation the group has up its musical sleeves.

Michelle Woodruff | ‘12

To meet the demands of continuing expansion, Xavier should consider offering alternative payment plans

As Xavier continues to expand, it will undoubtedly face new challenges as well as new opportunities. Already, in just the past two semesters, the *Newsire* has reported concerns about donor fatigue, anemic endowment growth, and a variety of difficulties related to the growing student population. Now, nearly half the student body must address a billing error which, most likely due to an oversight of the most routine variety, erroneously changed many students' payment plans from monthly installments to a single lump sum, due up front.

While such blunders are to be expected — and indeed forgiven — as an inevitable byproduct of technological progress, the whole episode led me to wonder whether anxieties such as billing errors and student loans are even necessary in the first place. I am reminded of an article by Kevin Williamson I once read in *National Review* (Oct. 20, 2008) which suggested several options for reforming higher education, one of which seems particularly pertinent in the current context.

At the moment, all but a privileged few college students finance their education at least partially through debt, in the form of student loans. This system not only loads most college graduates with debt, adding thousands of dollars worth of interest to the cost of an average student's tuition, but also costs the federal government billions of dollars in subsidized loans and grants. One possible alternative to traditional means of financing higher education, Williamson proposes, is through

equity.

Virtually everyone who pursues a bachelor's degree does so with the explicit purpose of increasing their earning potential. In other words, a college education is an investment. At least one device, the "Pullman bond," already exists in the financial world to allow investment in intellectual capital. Pullman bonds were originally created to allow singer David Bowie to sell the rights to his royalties for ten years, in exchange for which he received a \$55 million investment.

In a similar way, college students could secure financing for their education by agreeing to forego a designated percentage of their earnings for a specified period of time. Building on the idea behind the Pullman bond, one online education-finance company applied the concept for a short time before the 9/11 attacks destroyed their headquarters in the World Trade Center, forcing them to scale back operations. According to that company's president, demand for these "education investments" was high in both quantity and quality, attracting interest from the financially savvy and impecunious alike.

Taking the model a step further, Yale once experimented with an idea it called the "Tuition

Postponement Option," which failed as a result of poor administration and planning. But far from discrediting the idea, the Yale example is actually informative, for with classic Ivy League ineptitude (caused either by excessive breeding or in-breeding; you make the call), they managed to stumble

upon each of the system's main pitfalls. One problem involved the practice of grouping students into "cohorts" with joint responsibility, so that successful graduates wound up subsidizing dropouts and low-earners. Another was that, even without cohorts, students whose earnings exceeded the estimated median for the class paid more for their degrees than they would have otherwise.

Keeping in mind the lessons of the Yale experience, and with the added benefit of a prudence and moderation untainted by exposure to New Jersey, it seems entirely plausible that Xavier could successfully implement a pilot program along the same lines. If such a program were implemented, it might eventually provide the school with a long-term financial windfall, not to mention a national reputation for innovation.

Without the benefit of formal training, or even much academic experience, in the fields of busi-

ness or accounting, I make no pretension of offering an accurate picture of what equity-financed tuition might look like here at Xavier when (if) it becomes a reality. Using the data for Xavier available on payscale.com, however, it is possible to construct a basic outline.

With regard to the amount and duration of payments, there is a great deal of maneuverability, since either can be increased in order to decrease the other. One possible combination which balances the two might involve stretching payments out over 30 years, beginning ten years after graduation. According to PayScale, the median salary for Xavier graduates with 10-19 years of experience is roughly \$75,000, going up to about \$110,000 after 20+ years. If a student were to finance their tuition entirely through the deferred payment plan, they might reasonably be asked to forfeit five percent of their income during that period, making the final cost of their college education \$147,500.

Although this figure does exceed the approximately \$120,000 cost of tuition at Xavier for eight semesters, the difference is negligible in comparison with the nearly \$46,000 in interest which would be generated in only ten years if the same amount were financed with student loans. In effect, this means that the university can collect higher tuition, even though the average student will actually spend less by avoiding student loans. Moreover, the prospect of higher revenues is certain to strengthen the university's financial incentive to ensure the professional success

of its graduates.

Clearly, Xavier would have to carefully design a model to accurately estimate the future earnings of current students, and should also include caps on the total amount that a student can be charged relative to the cost of their education (for example, \$200,000). In addition, the school would have to consider which demographic to target with the program. Let's be honest — for all their virtues, art and philosophy students are simply not on the path to making the big bucks. Business students, on the other hand, are implicitly and explicitly shepherded into lucrative career tracks from day one, making them both the safest segment and the most easily analyzed one for this purpose.

Lastly, Xavier would also need to establish eligibility criteria for the program. If the university focused too heavily on low-risk students, it would fail to broaden its accessibility and appeal; but if the program were too heavily need-based it may be seen as merely another form of financial aid, and fail to attract significant publicity.

Of course, it will be impossible to know how wildly unrealistic my approximations actually are until Xavier agrees to seriously consider the idea of a postponed-payment plan. Although the benefits of doing so might not become fully apparent for decades, the cost of exploring the possibility would likely be minuscule. And even if the idea founders, it would still demonstrate Xavier's insightfulness and pioneering spirit to potential donors and the academic community at large.



PETER FRICKE
Op-Ed Editor

NOTES & ASIDES

A collection of comments, observations, and general remarks from your friendly editorial staff, intended for your edification and amusement

- Let no one say that the *Newsire* does nothing to help Xavier. Last week, for instance, we cunningly neglected to mention that the deadline for graduation applications is (was) Jan. 14, ensuring a healthy supply of late fees for the Bursar's Office.
- Dr. Scott Chadwick, the first of five applicants vying to replace current academic provost Dr. Roger Fortin, claimed that he would work to improve and expand Xavier's online course offerings. We can get behind that effort, so long as we never see a commercial featuring implausibly happy 20-somethings strutting about in their pajamas.
- At the same meeting

with Dr. Chadwick, Xavier's resident Jesuit groupie Chris Hale led off the session with an inquiry into Chadwick's thoughts on the Jesuit mission. Chadwick responded with a five-minute oration on the role of Jesuits within the Catholic Church, meaning the unprecedented could potentially occur: Xavier's Jesuit credentials could actually improve next year despite Hale's impending graduation.

- The most recent financial report released by Apple Inc. showed that profit and revenue both exceeded investor expectations for the last quarter. Even more impressively, they managed to accomplish the feat on the back of surging iPad sales, proving once

more their ability to sell the same product over and over again merely by changing its size.

- Apparently, comedian Ricky Gervais put his recent role as host of the Golden Globe Awards to good use, repeatedly directing insults at Hollywood celebrities and even the show's organizers. While the move may have been long overdue, we doubt the audience for the Golden Globes was all that receptive to his remarks.
- The Career Services Center reports that it has now seen a 125 percent increase in the use of its services over the past three years. Partly, this increase is probably a reflection of efforts to increase the CSC's

visibility among students. But perhaps judgment is best withheld until unemployment returns to normal levels; after all, desperation is a pretty strong motivator.

- The *Newsire* has recently begun to be concerned for the mental health of one Joe Christman, who has allegedly received offers to take on additional roles as a Subway sandwich artist, procurer of sundry masks for Rabbi Ingber, and mixologist for Ryan's Pub.
- Dayton — why even make the trip? Just save your gas money.
- An infant in Missouri may never learn how to count. Sorry, that's not really news. But the infant did suffer the loss of seven fingers that the family's pet

ferret evidently considered a delicacy. Don't worry, though; Shriners International has offered to pay for a surgery to replace four of the severed appendages using the child's toes. Oh, to see the result of *that* operation.

- The child's parents were charged with neglect and failure to procure an exotic pet license, though to his credit the infant's father did valiantly defend his offspring, eventually, by hurling the ferret across the room and killing it. This will no doubt prove disappointing to the numerous ferret activists who have inquired about the ferret (we're not kidding...really). By now, the animal may be more fit for a taxidermist.

Basketball remains perfect in A-10

Win over Dayton keeps A-10 home win streak intact, Flyers winless in Cincy

By SCOTT MUELLER
Sports Editor

Head coach Chris Mack has preached one thing all year: His team needs to keep improving and getting better with each practice and game.

The team is buying into the strategy, and the Musketeers are playing their best basketball of the season. This past week, they picked up home victories over Massachusetts and Dayton.

Xavier is 3-0 in the Atlantic 10 with an average margin of victory of 20.3 points.

On Wednesday, Jan. 12 the Muskies defeated UMass 79-50 for their second straight blowout.

Junior point guard Tu Holloway was the spark for the Musketeers. He had 15 points in the first half as he dismantled the UMass zone.

Xavier finished the half on a 12-0 run and led 35-18 at halftime. Led by Holloway, the Musketeers had two runs of at least 8-0.

The Musketeers extended their lead in the second half and were never seriously threatened. After the 10-minute mark in the second half, the Musketeers were able to maintain about a 30-point lead the rest of the way.

Defense was key for the Musketeers. XU forced UMass into long possessions and made them shoot contested shots with the shot clock winding down.

“Our message before the game was simply to crowd the floor as best we could, knowing that they wanted to drive the ball to the rim and get the ball inside off dribble penetration,” Mack said. “[We

wanted to] make that tough. I thought we did that for the most part.”

“No disrespect to the last two teams that we’ve played, (Rhode Island and Massachusetts) but you’ve got to remember that we’ve played against some great teams during our non-conference schedule,” Holloway said.

On Saturday, the Musketeers knocked off Dayton, 81-76.

Since the time the Flyers last beat the Muskies in Cincinnati, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day became a federal holiday, the internet and cell phones have become standard and there have been six U.S. presidents. Dayton fans can still take solace in the fact it has been three times as long since the Chicago Cubs last won the World Series.

The Flyers came close to ending the streak, but the Musketeers’ ability to hit free throws stopped the Flyers’ multiple runs at the end of the game. Foul shots proved the difference as the Muskies won the back and forth battle 81-76.

“The streak didn’t end on our seniors, so it feels real good,” senior Jamel McLean said. “They always play their best when they play against us. It was a tough matchup and we came out victorious.”

The Muskies overcame a 30-25 rebounding differential.

Three times in the second half, the Musketeers saw at least a five-point lead cut to zero. The Flyers also cut a fourth five point lead to one with less than a minute to play.

“In the second half, the momentum swings were unreal,”



Newswire photo by Andrew Matsushita
Junior Kenny Frease sealed the victory over Dayton with a defensive rebound and two free throws with nine seconds left.

Mack said. “You would get up six and you would have an open three, and you would miss it. Then boom, boom, and suddenly it’s tied. Suddenly you find yourself down.”

With a minute and a half left and the Musketeers leading 75-70, the Flyers got four quick points coming out of a timeout.

Holloway responded on the next possession with a jumper to push the lead back to three.

Two free throws by Dayton freshman Juwan Staten cut the lead to one with 22 seconds left.

Senior Danté Jackson hit both free throws when he was fouled on the following inbounds play.

With 19 seconds left, the Flyers

No. 7 women’s basketball controlling A-10

Conference victories keep Muskies near the top of the polls

By JOCELYN TAYLOR
Asst. Sports Editor

The No. 7 Musketeers are now 3-0 in Atlantic 10 conference play, and 13-2 overall, after defeating Saint Joseph’s and Massachusetts.

Senior Ta’Shia Phillips paced her team with 20 points and 17 rebounds to put down Saint Joseph’s 75-54. Junior Tyeasha Moss contributed 17 points and eight rebounds. Senior Amber Harris had a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds and seven assists.

Xavier allowed St. Joe’s to hang around early. The women went 12-37 from the field and 2-15 from behind the arc.

The Hawks were not shooting any better, but a clutch three-point shot made by junior Katie Kuester gave St. Joe’s a 31-30 lead at halftime.

The Hawks were able to hold on to their lead for three minutes in the second half before Phillips and Moss went off on an offensive tear.

Moss hit three three-point shots in the second half. Her last

three gave the Muskies a 55-37 lead over the Hawks.

The Muskies improved their shooting in the second half shooting 56 percent in the field and 44 percent from behind the arc. Their defense held the Hawks to 6-31 shooting from the field.

Xavier defeated the

Minutewomen 81-55 this past Sunday. Senior Amber Harris, who was also celebrating her birthday, led the team with 19 points and 18 rebounds.

Phillips had 15 points and 15 rebounds and Moss and senior Special Jennings contributed 11 points each.



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com
Junior Tyeasha Moss is leading the team in minutes played and is third in scoring, averaging 9.4 points a game.

Xavier controlled the game from the tip. Moss dished out a pass to senior Megan Askew who scored the first points for the Muskies. Moss followed her assist with a three-point shot for a 5-0 lead over Massachusetts.

The Minutewomen played tough defense and forced the Muskies to commit turnovers. They were able to tie the game at 7. The Musketeers gathered themselves on offense and went on a 10-0 run to extend their lead to 21-10 over Massachusetts. UMass senior Megan Zullo hit a three-point shot to end the scoring drought for her team, but they trailed 42-27 at halftime.

The Muskies charged out in to the second half on 16-0 run to leave UMass far behind with a 54-27 lead.

The women’s offense continued to crush UMass, and Xavier head coach Kevin McGuff allowed his bench to enter the game in the waning minutes of the half with a comfortable lead.

The Musketeers return home for their match against St. Bonaventure tonight at 7 p.m.

brought the ball down and missed a three, but got the offensive rebound under the basket. Despite losing the first rebound, junior Kenny Frease was able to stand tall and not take a foul. Dayton missed the contested layup and Frease grabbed the rebound and was immediately fouled.

Frease made free throws to seal the 81-76 victory for the Musketeers.

The Muskies have won 34 straight A-10 home games, tying a conference.

The Muskies will take on St. Bonaventure tonight at 7 p.m. It will be the Musketeer’s first look at a legitimate A-10 Player of the Year candidate in junior Andrew Nicholson, who Mack compared to Tim Duncan on Monday.

Nicholson is leading the A-10 in scoring with 20.9 points a game, just ahead of Holloway’s 20.3. Both Xavier and St. Bonaventure are averaging 70.2 points a game.

The Bonnies are not a very deep team. They have three players in the top eight in minutes played in the A-10. SBU senior Ogo Adegboye is the only Division I player averaging more than 40 minutes a game.

The Bonnies are 1-2 in the A-10 with two road losses to Temple and Rhode Island and a victory over Charlotte.

On Saturday, the Musketeers will take on Temple at 3 p.m.

The Owls, picked to win the A-10, have been receiving votes for the Top 25 all season. They are currently 3-1 in the A-10. Their only setback is a 78-66 loss at Duquesne.

Atlantic 10 Standings				
The Xavier women's basketball is ranked No. 7 in the country. They have won 18 consecutive A-10 regular season games. Here is a look at the standings as the Muskies go for a second perfect A-10 season.				
	Conference		Overall	
Name	W	L	W	L
Xavier	3	0	14	2
Richmond	3	0	12	5
Temple	3	0	11	6
Duquesne	2	0	15	2
Charlotte	2	1	14	4
St. Bona.	2	1	12	6
St. Joe's	1	2	11	6
Dayton	1	2	10	7
Fordham	1	2	9	10
La Salle	1	2	5	12
UMass	1	2	5	13
Geo. Wash.	0	2	5	11
URI	0	3	6	11
Saint Louis	0	3	6	12

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BRING

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to

XAVIER



Busiest time of the year paying dividends

BY JOHN WILMHOFF
Staff Writer

While many students recently enjoyed a leisurely Christmas break sleeping in late and lying on the couch watching television throughout most of the afternoon, the Xavier swim team did not take any time off at all this December and January.

The Musketeers competed in the Akron Zippy Invitational in early December, just before finals week. Head coach Brent MacDonald acknowledges that the lack of competition has been a little tough for his competitive natured team.

“However, from a coaching standpoint, it gives us a great opportunity to get some high intensity training and skill work in,” MacDonald said. “Our students went home for approximately ten days after finals, but while they were there they swam with their home club programs to keep their training up. Then we went on our annual training trip to Coral Springs, Florida.”

“During our ‘down time’, we are actually still very busy in the water,” senior Kari Peglar said. “Most people don’t know, but during break is our hardest training period of the year. We are re-



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Senior Nathan Green won Atlantic 10 Performer of the Week for his efforts at Akron. He won three races in the meet.

quired to come back to school early on Dec. 27, train for two days at Xavier, and then we take a training trip down to Coral Springs.”

In Florida, the team trains twice a day for a total of five hours. They were in Florida Dec. 29 to Jan. 7.

Senior Nathan Green explained how the team stays motivated over winter break. “During this training trip, there is a lot of competition within the team which supplements the competition we see at swim meets throughout the season,” Green said. “There are

plenty of rivalries within the team that motivate us throughout tough sets during practice.”

This past weekend, the Muskies had the difficult task of trying to start right back where they had left off after the strong showing at Akron, where the men finished second and the women seventh.

The Akron event propelled the men’s team to a No. 22 national ranking in the Avidasports’ Top 25 Performance Index. The poll, which was released the week of Dec. 9, is a little different than most polls. The poll measures a

team’s improvement from meet to meet in addition to top times.

Individually at Cleveland State, Nathan Green led the way for the men’s squad with yet another first place finish. In Akron, Green had picked up three first place finishes for the Musketeers, winning the 200-yard freestyle, the 500-yard freestyle and was a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay team that broke the school record time of 1:23.68. The performance at Akron earned him his first Atlantic 10 Performer of the Week honor and 41 days later, he was just as sharp.

At Cleveland State, Green finished first in the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 1:41.03 and he also earned fourth place in the 200 freestyle relay with fellow senior Andrew Viglione, sophomore Pablo Morejon and freshman John Kinney.

On the women’s side, Peglar had a strong performance with a third place finish in the 200 yard freestyle competition with a time of 1:56.16.

Peglar also placed fifth in the 100 yard freestyle and teamed up with senior Bethanie Griffin, junior Mary Podlaski and sophomore Anne Frigo for fourth place in the 200 yard medley relay.

Podlaski recorded a season best

time and was only a second off of some of her personal best times.

“Our performance at Cleveland is a great precursor to what we can do at A-10’s,” Peglar said. “We swam very tired coming off of training trip and a hard full week of practice and came out with some great swims. I am excited to see what we can do when we are actually rested.”

“Our teams performed the best they have all year, which is a great sign considering how tired they should be in this phase of our training,” MacDonald said. “They raced well after the long layoff and fought some tough competition from two teams at the top of their respective conferences. It was great for our girls to beat A-10 rival Duquesne for the first time in several years. This should give us a lot of confidence going into our final month of dual meets and the Atlantic 10 conference at the end of February.”

On Monday, both teams had strong showings in the meet at Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis.

Both teams won the 3x100 backstroke relay. The women’s team won three relay events.

The teams will return to Indianapolis for the Butler Invitational Sunday, Jan. 23.

In her shoes: April Phillips in Israel

BY APRIL PHILLIPS
Special Contributor

Imagine waking up and the desires you held near your heart from early childhood years were no longer dreams but reality. It is the life I currently live.

There is still much work to be done, much I want to accomplish, but even in its most premature state, I have accomplished something many desire to do but don’t. I am a professional athlete.

I stay in a small city outside of Tel Aviv called Azor. Things are very different. The things considered a luxury here are necessities in the United States.

I hang dry my clothes, and I must limit all of my cooking to burner items. No oven. If you could imagine simply the top half of your stove sitting on your cabinet, you would see my kitchen.

Despite what the news may portray, aside from crazed drivers, Israel is a very safe and Americanized place. If you step into a night club you may forget where you are. I like to call it Hebrew America. The beaches are beautiful and Tel Aviv is like any other big city.

Basketball here is an entirely different scene. At least it is with the organization I play for Elitzur Rishon Le-Zion, a team new to the first division within Israel. So needless to say, we are in building mode.

We are not by any chance the best team here, but each night I get to play against some of the top American players that hold

spots on WNBA rosters and are veterans in this professional sport. Who could ask for anything more? As coach McGuff would say “Advantage X.”

After graduating from a basketball program like Xavier, and playing with the New York Liberty for a while, a player becomes accustomed to having the finest treatment and everything you need to perform at high levels. Needless to say, that luxury is not always afforded overseas.

Jerusalem was the highlight of my trip. I was afforded the opportunity to walk through the holy land, the wall of the old city, the tomb of Jesus and leave prayers at the Western Wall.

I believe that we are sent to places for a reason. My experiences in the Holy Land have made me realize the need to start a non-profit organization. Senior Special Jennings and I are embarking on a joint venture to create a nonprofit organization that will be active this year following Xavier’s basketball season.

The organization will be geared towards kids within sexually or drug abusive homes. Our goal is to give children within child services an outlet. We want them to have positive activities to prevent them from becoming a part of what statistics say they are likely to become. We will use basketball activities as fundraisers, but the organization itself isn’t basketball related.

All in all, I would say that being in Israel was an eye opening experience outside of basketball.

When you are that far away from the culture and people you are accustomed to, you learn a lot about yourself. I learned that my mission in life is giving back, that is what God has put me on earth for.

You can follow me on twitter @aPhillips_xu and remember to support Xavier women’s basketball this season by actually going to some games.

Editor’s note: Phillips contract expired over the Christmas break. She is currently in discussion with her agent about future playing possibilities both in the U.S. and abroad.

Her team is currently in ninth place in the Israeli D1 league.



Photo courtesy of April Phillips

April Phillips averaged 11.4 points a game in Israel.



Photo courtesy of April Phillips

The amenities for profesional athletes are not quite the same in Israel as in America. Seen above, Phillips must iron her own jersey.

The year of sequels, comic books and more

BY BRENT EDWARDS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

With the New Year comes a new crop of exciting films. Xavier A&E combed through the lists to find the movies we thought students would be most excited to see in 2011.

Jan. 14 - *The Green Hornet*
Britt Ried (Seth Rogan) is a spoiled playboy who decides to use his wealth to fight crime with his butler Kato (Jay Chou).

Feb. 4 - *The Roommate*
A college student named Sara (Minka Kelley) finds herself in danger when she is placed with a volatile roommate Rebecca (Leighton Meester).

Feb. 18 - *Unknown*
Martin Haris (Liam Neeson) fights to regain everything he lost after having his identity mysteriously taken.

March 4 - *Rango*
Johnny Depp is a CGI chameleon who assumes the role of sherriff in a town needing a hero.

March 11 - *Battle: Los Angeles*
This is an action-packed film about an alien invasion set in Los Angeles.

April 15 - *The Intruder*
This horror/suspense film features a talk show star whose life takes a turn for the worse after she is cursed by a tarot card reader.

April 29 - *Fast Five*
The fifth installment of the *Fast and the Furious* Series, Vin Diesel must pull of one last heist to gain his freedom.

May 6 - *Thor*
A powerful but reckless god is



Photo courtesy of movieinfo2011.com

Leighton Meester (star of *Gossip Girl*) will be starring in the thriller *The Roommate*, scheduled for release on Feb. 4.

cast down to earth and learns what it means to be a true hero.

May 20 - *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*
Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) goes on an adventure to find the fountain of youth.

May 26 - *The Hangover 2*
The cast from the first *Hangover* film travel to Thailand for Stu’s wedding. Hilarious hijinks ensue.

June 3 - *X-Men First Class*
This prequel to the original X-men series shows the origins of two of the most powerful mutants:

Professor X (Patrick Stewart) and Magneto (Michael Fassbender).

June 17 - *Green Lantern*
Based of the popular comic book series, Hal Jorden (Ryan Reynolds), a cocky air force pilot, is chosen to join a league of super heroes known as the Green Lanterns.

June 24 - *Cars 2*
Racecar Lightning McQueen (Owen Wilson) heads to the racing world Grand Prix, but enemy cars are determined to prevent him from participating.

July 1 - *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*

The third installment of the popular *Transformers* series features Sam Witwicky (Shia Labouf) fighting alongside Optimus Prime in a plot that features the secret role that robots played in the Cold War.

July 15 - *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*

Harry, (Daniel Radcliff), Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint) seek out the legendary “deathly hallows” in

order to defeat the wicked Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes).

July 29 - *Cowboys and Aliens*
Cowboys team up with Native Americans in order to defend their land against hostile alien forces.

Aug. 3 - *The Smurfs*
This CGI telling of the classic cartoon has the smurfs transported into modern day New York.

Aug. 26 - *Final Destination 5*
Death comes with a vengeance for the teenagers in this popular horror series.

Oct. 21 - *Paranormal Activity 3*
The third installment in one of A&E’s favorite series. Plot details have not been released.

Nov. 23 - *The Greatest Muppet Movie Ever Made*

Kermit the Frog and friends team up to save a crumbling theater.

Dec. 16 - *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*

Tom Cruise returns as an international super spy James Hunt.

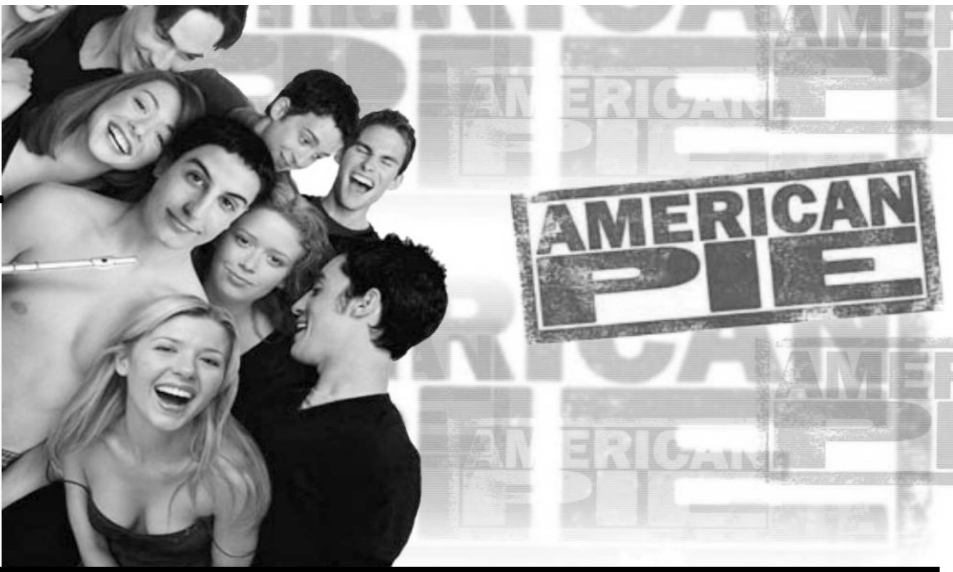
Dec. 21 - *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*

Steig Larsson’s literary trilogy is brought to screen. Computer hacker Lisabeth Salendar (Rooney Mara) and journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig) team up to find a woman who has been missing for 40 years.

Dec. 23 - *A Very Harold and Kumar Christmas*

The stoner duo of Harold (John Cho) and Kumar (Kal Penn) reunite for Christmas shenanigans.

SEXY



SPIRITUALITY AND SEX

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NOT SO MUCH

Indie kings release a new album “The King Is Dead”

BY JOHN STEVENS
Staff Writer

If you can call any band “indie kings,” it would be The Decemberists.

Certainly they’ve gained great exposure in the last several years, but their presence on the indie scene has been a constant since 2005 “Picaresque” and 2006 “The Crane Wife.” They have also had success touring nationally and in the United Kingdom.

The standard sound of The Decemberists lingers in upbeat and catchy tracks like “All Arise!,” “This Is Why We Fight”

Also featured is the almost humorous “Rox in the Box., which features lyrics such as “Get the rox in the box, get the water right down to your socks”.

But the stand out tracks move into more simplistic musicality. “January Hymn” is as a beautifully constructed acoustic-based folk song in the vein of the Guthries.

“Down By the Water,” though familiar, has excellent classic blues-rock undertones. “Down By the Water” is a perfect blend of the indie and country that comes together in an unexpected but delightful way.

The album resembles a “sounds of winter” compilation,

as the album seemingly channeling log cabins and snow-covered evergreens.

Their consistent problem lies in the tedious rut of overdoing their own brilliantly-scored folk ballads.

What’s frustrating here is sitting through the aforementioned rut. The first three tracks off “The King is Dead,” in particular “Rise to Me,” seem to go nowhere. This wouldn’t be a problem, except the album is a mere 10 tracks.

And while the album sounds inspired and is musically the cleanest The Decemberists may have produced to date, you can’t help but walk away with a bit of an empty feeling.

However, The Decemberists amp up the folk on this record, and embrace the simplistic, stripped down music, which proves to be excellent. If you can make it through some early tedium, there are some definite musical gems to be found on “The King is Dead.”

For fans of The Decemberists the nearest show is in Milwaukee on Feb. 5 at Riverside Theater.

NewsWire Rating:





Dr. E. Paul Colella of the philosophy department has led the popular summer study abroad program in Rome for more than a decade. This year, he took students to Rome over the winter intersession for the first time.

I have seen the bewildered, questioning eyes dozens of times now, all asking the same question.

“Wait, so you go to Rome for a week, see the Coliseum and the Pope and all that, and you get credit for it?” they all ask.

“Yeah,” I say. “I mean, it is not just like a sight-seeing tour. It is an actual class.”

“Well, I mean, what do you

learn?” they usually ask.

At which point I launch into a three-minute prepared oration on Vico and Plato and the symbols of Christian Rome and Heyden White and Marcus Aurelius and some crazy theory I cooked up called Tourist Rome and anything else I can slip in before their eyes glaze over.

For most listeners accustomed to the limits of what

can be learned and absorbed during a week in Alter Hall and McDonald Library, it seems implausible to absorb an advanced view of a city’s more than 2,000 years of history and the intricacies of its hundreds of monuments over the course of seven days.

Yet, a funny thing can often happen when students step onto a plane for a nine-hour flight

across the Atlantic to spend a week-long intersession class intermittently checking an empty pocket for an absent cell phone and developing inexplicable cravings for Chipotle between meals casually considered to be the best of their lives.

Students often test the limits of their cognitive thinking, ruminating and meditating on images and concepts they have just seen and felt in action, as opposed to merely read about in a used textbook on the third floor

of Gallagher Student Center.

For visual learners, there is no better way to understand the concept that the emperors wanted to make a statement of their grandiose power than to stand at one end of the Circus Maximus and imagine this quarter-mile long basin filled with sparkling white marble and tens of thousands of Romans watching a chariot race.

Or, for auditory learners, it is hard to beat gaining an understanding of Christian persecution in a better manner than taking a guided tour of the Roman Catacombs for a mere eight Euros—or just sticking within arm’s length of the professor’s omnipresent beret leading the tour of the city every day.

For me, as a first-time study abroad student in my final months as an undergrad, the chance to take Dr. E. Paul Colella’s “Roman Philosophy” class from Jan. 1 through Jan. 9 was more than just a convenient and exciting way to fill out the upper-level philosophy class that the core requires of me. It was a chance to experience a new culture for seven brief days, not merely eating the food or hearing the language,

but seeking to identify the true nature of modern Rome to better understand why the things I learned in the classroom were so important.

So whether it was something powerful, like standing high up on the Vittoriano looking out at the city, something overt, like sitting in a classroom at St. John’s University in Rome, or something subtle, like a trip down the street to get a panino from the Piccolo Diavolo, the learning experience in Rome was not limited to brief two-hour spurts interspersed throughout the day. I, like the other 17 students on the trip, was engaged in learning in some fashion—be it philosophical, historical, cultural, social or most importantly culinary—for nearly 15 hours per day for seven consecutive days. Perhaps it is no wonder some of us had trouble rousing ourselves from a slumber in the morning.

Eventually, all of these points come up in the conversations about Rome that I seem to find myself in at the supermarket, in line at Subway or at the barber shop. By that point the bewildered look is wiped away, but the inquisitiveness remains.

“Hey,” my conversant will ask. “When did you say that trip was again?”



Students took a day trip to the ancient city of Florence. The entirety of the sprawling city can be seen atop the dome of the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, the largest dome in the world.



Jesuit Roots: Rome program students show Xavier pride in front of the Church of the Gesù, the mother church of the Jesuits.